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1. For a boy or girl to be admitted to the New Democratic Youth League (NDYL) the official age limits are 16 to 25, but it is elastic within a year or two either way. The procedure for joining is to register with the secretary of one's local branch and submit four passport photographs. Eligibility for membership is decided when the candidate appears before a committee and describes his or her history and state of mind. Applicants not found "ideologically pure" are made "reserve members" for periods from three months to one year.
2. The membership card is red in color, about 4 inches square. It shows name, age, sex, place of birth and address, and carries a photograph of the holder fixed with an embossed NDYL seal. This membership card must be produced to gain admittance to any League meeting. The subscription is JPY 1,500 monthly. It is also compulsory to subscribe to the NDYL paper, "The Youth", which appears twice weekly and costs JPY 4,800 per month.
3. Five members are enough to form a local branch (2388/6752); but most branches are 50 to 100 strong, divided into small groups of 3 to 10 members each. One hundred to five hundred members constitute a general branch (0433/2388/6752), and over 500 constitute a district branch (0575/2388/6752). Above this level are the provincial branch (4920/2388/6752) and league headquarters (0957/6752).
4. The secretary of a branch receives a monthly living allowance of 28 basic units, but most secretaries give this in full to the Korean war fund.
5. Meetings are held once or twice a week usually to listen to political lectures from Party members of long standing. There are also many informal activities such as collecting donations, cheering at political meetings and marching in processions. The duties of a branch secretary are so arduous that if he is a pupil he rarely makes a good showing at his school work.

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6. The Youth Vanguarders are called for short Hsiao Erh Tui (Young Children's Troops). This junior wing of the NDYL comprises school children from 9 to 15 years of age. Enrollment in this part of the movement is usually by a whole school class at a time. The Vanguarders wear white shirts, red ties and blue shorts (boys) or black skirts (girls).
7. The organization is pseudo-military, eight or ten to a troop; five troops to a company under a captain and a lieutenant; and 200 or more to a battalion under a commander and two deputies.
8. The Vanguarders' activities are mainly based on the schools, and many of them take place in school hours. On Mondays and Wednesdays they read "The New Youth", the Vanguarders' newspaper, which costs JMP 5,200 per term payable with school fees and hence compulsory. On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays they listen from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. to special broadcasts, lauding Soviet youth or the bravery of the Chinese People's Volunteers. On Saturdays there is a discussion meeting with criticism and self-criticism. On Sundays there are rallies in the public parks. During school holidays, for Shanghai members excursions to Nanking and Hangchow are open to a lucky few.
9. The Vanguarders rarely march in public processions, but they are always on hand as cheering groups, or serving tea to the demonstrators. During the Suppression of Revolutionaries Campaign, they were used as loudspeaker operators broadcasting warnings, and even on sentry duty in alley-ways to prevent the escape of wanted persons.
10. Generally speaking, the Vanguarders are more popular with their members than is the NDYL with their seniors. The younger children seem to enjoy being regimented, while the older students get very bored with all the politics they are forced to listen to. But in the schools and colleges of Shanghai there is very little chance of escape for youth of any age. For the Vanguarders, their membership is compulsory and automatic. As for the Youth League proper, it is the only path to a government job; without membership of it no student can aspire to anything better than a clerkship in a cooperative store.

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